

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Election Requirement

A species-type restriction requirement has been imposed by the Examiner between the following species:

Group IA – Claims 1, 2, 5, 7

Group IB – Claims 1, 2, 6, 7

Group IC – Claims 1, 2, 7-9

Applicants hereby elects, without traverse, Group IA - Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 for prosecution on the merits to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is found to be allowable. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims of Group IB and IC in a divisional application. Applicant also reserves the right to establish that claims 1 and 2 are allowable. Applicant believes that Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 belong to Group IA.

Conclusion

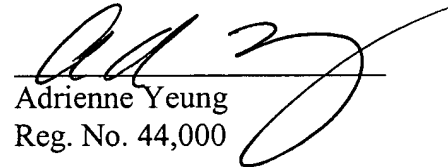
It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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